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AM-BOKASSA

BY LOIC EVEN

KIGALI, RWANDA, MAY 22, REUTER - EMPEROR BOKASSA TODAY ADMITTED SCOP[illegible] OF STUDENTS WERE KILLED IN RIOTS IN HIS CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ALLEGED LAST WEEK THAT SECURITY FORCES IN THE COUNTRY KILLED BETWEEN 50 AND 100 CHILDREN, SOME OF THEM AS YOUNG AS EIGHT YEARS OLD.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH REUTERS HERE, WHERE HE IS ATTENDING A SUMMIT OF FRANCO-AFRICAN LEADERS, THE BEARDED 58-YEAR-OLD EMPEROR SAID:

"I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MANY DIED. I DO NOT KNOW MYSELF. AN INVESTIGATION IS NOW UNDERWAY IN EVERY SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE TO FIND OUT THE NUMBER OF MISSING STUDENTS."

(IN PARIS TODAY, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE'S AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, SYLVESTRE BANGUI, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SOME 100 CHILDREN WERE KILLED. HE SAID THE DEATHS OCCURRED IN JANUARY AND APRIL.

(MR BANGUI, WHO SAID HE HAD RESIGNED HIS POST AND ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN FRANCE, ADDED THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THE ACCUSATION PUBLIC AFTER A NUMBER OF WITNESSES GAVE HIM INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTS OF THE KILLINGS DURING A RECENT VISIT HOME.)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RLS DATE 10/25/82
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DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
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AM-BOKASSA 2 KIGALI

THE "PAPA BOK AFFAIR" -- AS IT IS REFERRED TO HERE -- TODAY COMPLETELY OVERSHADOWED THE 23-NATION SUMMIT DUE TO END TONIGHT.

THE CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS TO HAVE REVIEWED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND IT FORMER COLONIES IN AFRICA, INSTEAD CAME TO GRIPS WITH THE AFFAIR AT ITS MORNING SESSION, RELIABLE SOURCES SAID.

A FIVE-NATION AFRICAN INVESTIGATION TEAM WILL SOON BE SENT TO THE EMPIRE'S CAPITAL, BANGUI, TO ENQUIRE INTO THE KILLINGS ON BEHALF OF THE SUMMIT, THE CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EMPEROR, TOLD OF HIS PARIS ENVOY'S DENUNCIATION, TOLD REPORTERS: "HE IS A BRIGHT MAN, WITH BRILLIANT QUALITIES. I SHALL NEVER TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST HIM."

ASKED IF HE FELT THE AFFAIR HAD SHAKEN HIS THRONE, THE EMPEROR SAID: "I AM A SOLDIER. I HAVE NEVER BEEN SCARED IN MY